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# Baker, Ray Stannard to American Magazine

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Ray Stannard Baker.

19 American Magazine 345 Fifth Ave. New York

Each colored man who takes a step ahead must prove  
for his race that a colored man can after all do his  
special work as well as a white man.

The presumption is always against him.

Chas. Harrah, Rust Midvale Steel Company.

~~We have fully 800 or 1000 colored men. The balance are Americans Irish & Germans. The colored~~  
labor we have is excellent. We have no colored men who drink. They work cheek by jowl with  
Irish & when the Irishman has festivity at home he has colored men invited. He introduced  
one man at first to sweep up the yard & we noticed the Irish Germans looked at him as house.  
Then we put them in the boiler room & then we got them in the open hearth & in the  
forge & gradually we got them everywhere. They are intelligent & docile & when they come in  
as laborers unskilled they gradually become skilled & in the course of time we will  
make excellent foremen out of them. No difference in wages of Negroes & whites in  
the same grade of work.

Indianapolis employer:  
I've tried Negro help over & over again hoping to help out the condition  
of Negro idleness we have here. I have had 2 or 3 good Negro workers, but so many  
of them have been wholly undisciplined, irresponsible & sometimes actually  
dishonest that I've given up trying. When I hear that an applicant is  
colored, I don't employ him.